

# Appendix J: BLM Resource Management Plan

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portions of the Beaver Dam Mountains Wilderness Area. Utilities within designated corridors will be managed under VRM Class III guidelines regardless of the surrounding designation.

Nonetheless, scenic areas traversed by the corridors such as the Springdale to LaVerkin corridor will continue to carry a Class II designation for all other land use activities. Designated utility corridors are depicted in Table 2-2 and on Map 2.2. These corridors, where applicable, are designed to conform to the long range corridor needs established by the utility industry in the Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Utility Group, 1992). They also correlate to the extent possible with corridor designations on adjacent public lands in Arizona and Nevada and with corridors on the adjacent Dixie National Forest. New utility construction within the Washington County HCP Reserve will continue to be guided by protocols established in the HCP (Washington County, 1995).

LD-15 Rights-of-way for the municipal water well field below Gunlock to the Shivwits Indian Reservation for new wells, water pipelines, and small distribution lines to service the pump houses are necessary to support essential municipal purposes. BLM will continue to process applications for such actions on a case-by-case basis.

LD-16 BLM will continue to work with project sponsors to further identify and analyze a suitable route for the Southern Transportation Corridor from Hildale along the Arizona border to I-15. The route includes a bypass spur that branches off at the base of the Hurricane Cliffs along the existing road and connects with State Route 9. These actions will be considered within the scope of this Plan. BLM will also work with project sponsors to identify and analyze a suitable alignment for an extension of the route from I-15 to Old U.S. Highway 91 between Santa Clara and Ivins. The extension will be ana-

**TABLE 2-2 • Designated Utility Corridors**

- Navajo McCullough Corridor (existing) - north of the Beaver Dam Mountains Wilderness Area boundary.
- Intermountain Power Project Corridor (existing).
- Following the route of the Garkane and UP&L power line from Hildale to Hurricane.
- UP&L substation at Dammeron Valley to the Sand Cove Reservoir power plant and from there to Veyo and Central following existing line.
- UP&L substation at Harrisburg Junction to Hurricane following existing line.
- La Verkin to Anderson Junction following the route of SR-17.
- Following the route of old Highway 91 across the Beaver Dam slope from the Arizona border to the Shivwits Indian Reservation, then from the northern boundary of the Shivwits Indian Reservation to Gunlock Reservoir following the Gunlock road. This corridor would be the width of the currently fenced road rights-of-way.
- Following SR-18 Highway from St. George to Veyo. This corridor would be the width of the currently fenced road right-of-way.
- Hurricane south to the Arizona border and over to Hildale. Route would follow the existing road from Hurricane south to border and from there to Hildale following the Arizona border.
- Springdale to La Verkin following the route of the UP&L line.
- Motoqua to Shivwits Indian Reservation following existing road.
- I-15 from beginning of public land to the north to below Harrisburg Junction.

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roads through coordination with applicable Washington County or municipal officials. Proper exercise of Utah state law and federal regulation regarding public notice and hearings will be followed in pursuing such closures.

- TR-06 Once issues related to road jurisdiction under R.S. 2477 are resolved, BLM will anticipate completing a reinventory of roads on public lands within Washington County and updating its transportation plan accordingly in collaboration with representatives of the county and affected municipalities. BLM will then evaluate the need to adjust off road vehicle management designations through the plan amendment process to reflect changes that may have occurred in jurisdiction and other elements of the revised transportation plan.
- TR-07 BLM will work with the Utah Department of Transportation, Washington County, and project sponsors to identify a suitable route for the Southern Transportation Corridor and major connectors along the Arizona border from State Route 59 near Hildale to a proposed I-15 interchange on state land near Atkinville. For further details, see the discussion on the proposed route under Rights-of-Way in the Lands section of this Plan.
- TR-08 Within the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Reserve, road maintenance, upgrades, and new construction will continue to be guided by HCP requirements and protocols as described in Appendix A of the HCP. Where public lands are involved, upgrades and new construction will be subject to applicable environmental study and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

### Air Quality

#### Objectives

*BLM's objective for airshed management will be to ensure that authorizations granted to use pub-*

*lic lands and BLM's own management programs will comply with and support local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and implementation plans pertaining to air quality.*

- AQ-01 All BLM actions and use authorizations will be designed or stipulated so as to protect the high-quality airshed within Zion National Park and other Class I areas in the region and to otherwise minimize impacts to visibility.
- AQ-02 Prescribed burns will be approved through the State of Utah permitting process and timed so as to maximize smoke dispersal. In accordance with state agency consultation, ignition will be approved only when the burning index is 500 or greater.
- AQ-03 Industry proposals for development on public lands that would involve new emission sources will be analyzed under new source review procedures by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) and visibility impacts prior to approval and measures applied to ensure compliance with applicable standards.

### Soil and Water Resources

#### Objectives

*BLM's objectives for soil and water resources will be to work with municipalities, state and local agencies, and other interested parties to:*

- a) protect community watersheds and sources of culinary water,*
- b) reduce erosion, stream sedimentation, and salinization,*
- c) improve water quality in streams and rivers,*
- d) promote water conservation,*
- e) ensure compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to water quality and pollution prevention,*



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public lands in Washington County. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining specific features or recreation opportunities that make them unique or particularly desirable to recreationists and other members of the public.

RC-18 Four new SRMAs are designated under this plan including Sand Mountain, Red Mountain/Santa Clara, Deep Creek, and LaVerkin Creek/Black Ridge. Canaan Mountain will continue to be managed as an SRMA. The SRMAs cover 127,375 acres and are depicted on Map 2.12. BLM will prepare recreation management plans for each SRMA. The SRMAs are described below.

RC-19 Lands classified as primitive under the recreation opportunity spectrum, including portions of the Canaan Mountain, Red Mountain, LaVerkin Creek/Black Ridge, and Deep Creek SRMAs, will be managed to preserve primitive recreation opportunities. For this reason, they will be placed in fluid mineral leasing Category 3 (NSO), designated as rights-of-way avoidance areas, closed to off-road travel for motorized vehicles and mountain bikes, and closed to mineral materials and fuelwood sales. In such areas, mining plans of operation will be required for all mining activity beyond casual use.

RC-20 **Sand Mountain SRMA** encompasses 40,725 acres of public land. BLM will apply the following management prescriptions relating to recreation management within the area. Where further analysis, planning, or resources are required, actual development or implementation will not take place until such analysis is completed and resources become available.

a) BLM will work with local and state agencies in developing recreation plans for lands surrounding the proposed Sand Hollow reservoir once it is constructed. Such plans may provide for staging areas, parking, information displays, and other visitor facilities needed

to accommodate increased recreation and OHV use expected to occur throughout the immediate area.

b) Where consistent with the goals and policies of both agencies, BLM will consider entering into a cooperative management agreement with the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation that will allow State Park officials to exercise day-to-day management of access and recreation on selected public lands surrounding the proposed reservoir and on Sand Mountain. Such will be designed to achieve consistent management, law enforcement, user fees, and visitor services. Leases or conveyances under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act may be considered where high amounts of capital investment are involved for campgrounds and related facilities.

c) BLM will work with user groups and other interested parties to identify and, where appropriate, develop OHV trail systems that will connect with similar trail systems and suitable roads in Arizona. One or more loops will continue to be authorized for yearly competitive events. Where needed to minimize cumulative impacts to soils and other resources, competitive events may be rotated amongst established courses in collaboration with the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office.

d) BLM will work with interested user groups to identify, develop, and maintain up to 50 miles of equestrian trails near Sand Mountain to meet growing demands for such use. Organized events will be managed under terms designed to avoid sensitive resources and conflicts with OHV use.

e) Generally, lands within this SRMA not already identified in this Plan for disposal or included in current exchange agreements will be maintained in public ownership to provide long-term stability for user groups such as the OHV community who, as a result of urbanization and land use restric-

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tions, have lost much of their traditional open use areas.

f) The Fort Pearce and Honeymoon Trail historic sites will be maintained and explained through appropriate interpretive displays for public enjoyment and education.

g) The Dinosaur Trackway paleontological site, visitor parking area, and interpretive signs will be maintained to enhance site security and public education.

h) Where previously constructed monuments are missing or in disrepair, BLM will work with local and state historical associations and other interested parties to remark selected portions of the Dominguez-Escalante Historic Trail.

i) No camping will be authorized within 1 mile of Fort Pearce or the Dinosaur Trackway to protect the sites from excessive human encroachment and to protect sensitive riparian values and wildlife habitat along the Fort Pearce Wash. Both sites (40 acres each) will be closed to motorized travel to protect the historic structure and the dinosaur tracks.

j) BLM will seek to obtain a 4,240-acre mineral withdrawal for the Dinosaur Trackway and the Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC to protect listed species habitat and important historical and paleontological sites from mining development. Until such time as a withdrawal is in place, mining plans of operation will be required to afford a minimum level of protection. These sites will also be closed to mineral materials sales and placed in fluid mineral leasing Category 3 (NSO).

### ***Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Setting***

Semiprimitive motorized (39,940 acres), rural (785 acres).

### ***Main Attractions***

Sand dune OHV riding area, Dinosaur Trackway paleontologic site, Fort Pearce historic site, historic trails, Warner Valley Road.

### ***Main Recreation Activities***

OHV riding and competitive events, horseback riding, scenic driving and viewing, visiting historic and paleontologic sites, natural history education, semiprimitive recreation, undeveloped camping, picnicking, guided tours, and recreation instruction.

### **RC-21 Red Mountain/Santa Clara SRMA**

encompasses 23,725 acres of public land. BLM will apply the following prescriptions relating to recreation management within the area. Where further analysis, planning, or resources are required, actual development or implementation will not take place until such analysis is completed and resources become available.

a) The Red Mountain trail head and hiking trail off Utah Highway 18 north of Snow Canyon State Park will be improved and maintained in partnership with interested agencies or user groups.

b) BLM will work with affected user groups, landowners, and local and state agencies to identify, develop, and maintain a 60-mile equestrian trail near Red Mountain. Organized events will be managed under terms designed to avoid impacts to sensitive resources in the vicinity of the trail.

c) BLM will consider entering into cooperative management agreements with the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation that will allow Snow Canyon State Park officials to exercise day-to-day management of access and recreation on public lands immediately to the north and west of Snow Canyon State Park and in Paradise Canyon on the southeast to protect important resources and provide law enforcement and visitor services. The decisions of this Plan are intended to complement the goals, objectives, and decisions of the 1998 Snow Canyon State Park Resource Management Plan. Among other things, such agreements may provide for joint development of hiking, biking, and

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interested parties to develop strategies and make adjustments in permitted land uses to the extent such are determined to be contributing factors.

f) BLM will continue to fund, conduct, or authorize field studies to monitor bear claw poppy populations, trends, and habitat impacts. Public education programs will be supported in conjunction with the Washington County HCP to build increased understanding of the unique character, importance, and requirements of the plant.

g) Mountain bike use will be limited to a designated trail. BLM will work with user groups, affected agencies, and interested parties to design a trail and redirect current use to avoid damage to bear-claw poppy populations. Trail approval and reconstruction will be subject to consultation with the FWS.

h) Because protection of the cryptogamic material occurring on the soil surface is needed to reduce unacceptable soil loss, BLM will manage authorized uses in the area so as to require the best management practices, including the use of special equipment or construction of temporary or permanent protective features.

i) Special recreation permits may be issued where site specific analysis determines that the authorized activity will not adversely affect the values for which the ACEC was designated.

j) Public lands in the ACEC will be retained in public ownership. Non-federal lands within the ACEC may be obtained through purchase, exchange, or donation where such will help to achieve management objectives for the area. Lands so acquired will be managed under the same prescriptions as will be applied to the remainder of the ACEC.

AC-03 The **Warner Ridge/Fort Pearce ACEC** encompasses 4,281 acres. This area contains the endangered dwarf bear-

claw poppy, the threatened siler pin-cushion cactus, important riparian values along the Fort Pearce Wash, historic sites, and highly erodible soils, all of which are at risk from off-road travel, road proliferation, urban growth, and human encroachment. The area also contains essential habitat for waterfowl, the gila monster, spotted bat, raptors, and other nongame species which have suffered from habitat loss caused by urbanization and development in the St. George area. The following prescriptions will be applied to protect and improve these values:

a) Category 3 (NSO) stipulations will be applied to fluid mineral leasing to avoid soil loss and irreparable impacts to poppy habitat from exploration, drilling, and lease maintenance operations.

b) The area will be closed to fuelwood and mineral materials sales and designated a right-of-way avoidance area. BLM will work with sponsors of the Southern Transportation Corridor to define an environmentally preferred route through the area that will minimize impacts to the resources being protected.

c) BLM will recommend the area be withdrawn from mineral entry. Pending Secretarial approval of the withdrawal, mining plans of operation will be required for all mining exploration and development activities other than casual use.

d) Motorized travel will be limited to designated roads and trails. Fencing, barricading, and signing will be employed as necessary to eliminate unauthorized vehicle access and impacts to protected resources.

e) Mountain bike use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

f) Public lands in the ACEC will be retained in public ownership. Non-federal lands within the ACEC may be obtained through purchase, exchange, or

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donation where such will help to achieve management objectives for the area. Lands so acquired will be managed under the same prescriptions as will be applied to the remainder of the ACEC.

g) Special recreation permits may be issued where site specific analysis determines that the authorized activity will not adversely affect the values for which the ACEC was designated.

h) Additional prescriptions described in the discussion of the Sand Mountain Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in the Recreation section of this Plan will be applied to achieve objectives for the area.

AC-04 The **Santa Clara/Gunlock ACEC** encompasses 1,998 acres. This area contains numerous important resource values that need special protection as a result of extensive recreation use, off-road travel, transient camping, and other forms of human encroachment (Utah Department of Natural Resources, 1995). Values include numerous Virgin Anasazi riverine sites, Southern Paiute sites, and rock art sites, many of which have been looted or vandalized. The Santa Clara River supports essential riparian resources, habitat for the Virgin spinedace minnow and migratory and nongame birds, and potential habitat for the listed Southwestern willow flycatcher. Management objectives include protection of cultural resources, improvement and protection of riparian systems and floodplains, and restoration of habitats for listed and sensitive species. The following prescriptions will be applied to offer protection to the resources so identified:

a) Selected archeological sites may be managed for public values and interpreted for educational use. Other sites will continue to be managed for information potential unless specific plan prescriptions establish other objectives in accordance with cultural resource policies. Surveillance and other law enforcement

measures will be increased to deter vandalism. Site steward programs will be employed to bring trained volunteers to monitor the sites and report violations or resource degradation. Cooperative agreements with local Indian tribes, government agencies, or qualified organizations may be used for interpreting, protecting, or otherwise managing archeological resources in their natural context where consistent with ACEC prescriptions.

b) BLM will collaborate with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, the FWS, and other interested parties in implementing the terms of the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement and Strategy (April 11, 1995) as it affects the segment of the Santa Clara River in this ACEC. Among other things, this will include the reestablishment and protection of year-round flows in the Santa Clara River below Gunlock Dam, implementation of habitat improvements, eradication of nonindigenous fish, and monitoring and evaluation.

c) All applicable management prescriptions listed under the section in this Plan on Riparian Resources will be implemented in full to restore and protect the riparian values and associated habitats within this ACEC.

d) Lands outside of riparian zones will be placed under Category 2 special stipulations for fluid mineral leasing requiring submission and approval of a plan of development that protects surface and groundwater quality.

e) The area will be closed to fuelwood and mineral materials sales and designated a right-of-way avoidance area.

f) Motorized travel will be limited to designated roads and trails to help protect and restore riparian values and sensitive fish habitat.

g) Mountain bike use will be limited to existing roads and trails.